

Today, I am honored to recognize Eugene's service to our country and celebrate an incredible milestone in his life.

Our Nation's veterans are the backbone of this country. To Eugene, I say thank you for your incredible service and your sacrifice in the two wars that you fought for this Nation.

I wish you many more years to come with your family, and I thank you for your time and your dedication.

(Mrs. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, for 1½ years now, people in Texas who are able to do so have been traveling out of State to obtain abortion care, and now that 15 other States have banned abortion, more people are traveling even farther to get the reproductive healthcare that they need.

In response to this exercise of the constitutional right to travel, lawmakers and others in Texas—and in States across the country—are threatening to take away that right, too.

These threats fail not only to reflect the will of the majority of people in this country, these threats fail to recognize the fundamental rights of Americans guaranteed in our Constitution.

Congress has the authority and the responsibility to protect people from these unconstitutional efforts to prevent, restrict, impede, or otherwise punish a person traveling to another State to obtain a legal abortion and to protect healthcare providers and others who assist that person.

Last week, I reintroduced the Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act which passed this House last year with Congresswoman MARILYN STRICKLAND, Congressman JAMIE RASKIN, and more than 150 original cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to pass this bill, once again, to protect this fundamental right.

MAKE WASHINGTON SAFE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. LEE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 26, Disapproving the Action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022.

As a former Federal prosecutor and circuit court judge, I know firsthand how important it is for criminal penalties to reflect the seriousness of a crime and to ensure the safety of our communities.

Despite surging crime rates, the D.C. Council seeks to reduce the maximum sentences for violent crimes such as carjackings and robberies and enact procedural changes that will overburden the courts.

This will undermine law enforcement, and it is contrary to the actual

needs of the residents and visitors to our Nation's Capital.

Republicans are committed to data-driven criminal justice policies that will strengthen our courts and law enforcement, combat rising crime rates, and protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important measure to put an end to these policies and make Washington safe for all Americans.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE STATE OF OUR UNION

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, last night President Biden gave his interpretation of the state of our Union, but after hearing his version, one thing is clear: our President lives in an alternative reality.

We all know the problems:

Crippling inflation and soaring interest rates, making it harder to save money and do business;

An open border with nearly 5 million illegal crossings since this administration took office;

A drug and crime crisis harming our communities; and

A more dangerous world with feckless leadership out of the White House, from a botched Afghanistan withdrawal to an emboldened CCP.

The fact is that Americans know the real state of our Union every time they buy groceries, put gas in their tanks, can't find baby formula or medications, or lose a loved one to the fentanyl pouring over our border.

That is why Americans elected House Republicans last November to bring change back to Washington.

We have already got to work by passing legislation to defund 87,000 IRS agents, establishing a select committee to compete with China, halting the COVID vaccine mandate for service-members, and ending the national emergency and fully reopening the Capitol to the American people.

We are just getting started. To use the words of President Biden: House Republicans plan to finish the job the right way for the American people.

PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

(Mr. GOOD of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration continues their all-out assault on the Second Amendment as evidenced by the President's call just last night in this very Chamber for banning weapons he finds objectionable.

Madam Speaker, Democrats believe that the government should decide your God-given constitutionally pro-

tected rights. Their new ATF rule published in the Federal Register further threatens the rights of law-abiding citizens.

It treats individuals who own pistols with stabilizing braces as if they possess illegal short-barrel rifles, and it forces them to surrender them to the Federal Government. If they don't surrender them, then they are retroactively declared criminals for what was then a lawful purchase, and they now face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

This is just another example of the Washington-knows-best elites who are out-of-touch with everyday Americans.

So I introduced the PISTOL Act to block the ATF from redefining pistol braces as short-barreled rifles. My legislation provides a simple statutory definition of a pistol and would prevent the Biden administration from improperly classifying pistol braces or regulating them by decree or fiat.

The Second Amendment is not subject to bureaucratic interpretation, and we have got to fight to protect the God-given and constitutionally protected rights of all Americans.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEADERSHIP MEANS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the wallets of South Carolinians and all Americans have been negatively affected by the destructive decisions of Biden and the Democrat-led Congress destroying jobs.

However, through the leadership of Governor Henry McMaster, with the largest Republican supermajority in South Carolina in 150 years, South Carolina has achieved a record surplus of over \$3.5 billion in unexpected revenue for the year.

Last week, in the State of the State Address by Governor McMaster, he stated that 2022 was the most successful year for economic growth in our State's history.

The Governor announced 12 projects valued at over \$10 billion creating 14,000 new jobs. Governor Jim Edwards recruited Michelin, Governor Carroll Campbell recruited BMW, Governor David Beasley promoted workfare programs, and Governor Nikki Haley saved Boeing.

South Carolina remains a shining example for America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Our support is for our appreciated ally Turkey, which has been so devastated by the earthquake.